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VOLUME VII, NUMBER 18 JUNE 5, 1961

EXTRA!

SAVE OUR DESERT

Mrs. Esther Schaak, Editor
Cahuilla Newsletter
Palm Desert, California

Dear Mrs. Schaak:
I am attaching copies of two letters of protest under a proposed road change. I would greatly appreciate it if you would have these published in the "Palm Desert News" in order that this matter may be of public record.

Merrill L.Remington

(Since both letters are the same, only the two names will be used:
Mr. O.C.Steen
78 North Grand Avenue
Pasadena, California

Mr. Albert Wurst
1355 Coronet
Pasadena, California

Dear Mr. Wurst,
I strongly protest the re-routing of Cat Canyon Road and the blocking off of any portion thereof as proposed by you and Mr. Steen on May 31.
This road existed for natural advantage before our buildings were erected and the set-back of your house was acceptable to you at that time. This ridge has been denuded of what little natural cover existed originally by bulldozing and landscaping and this has created a dust problem and general nuisance for all of us.
I also protest any rerouting of any existing roads through our low washes, which may in the future carry flash waters and isolate our neighbors who at this time have no voice in your proposal. (See Page 2)

BLOCK THE ROAD?

Houses affected by the road cutting are owned by out-of-town people, who have no other means of learning of these plans and events than through Newsletter. Even people who live in the Los Angeles Metropolitan area are usually not in the desert during July, when Mr. Wurst and Mr. Steen propose to do the bulldozing.
Those directly affected, as far as the editor can judge from her map are:
Sen. Albert W. Hawkes, Montclair,N.J.
Mrs. Jack Houston
R.L.Hooper,San Francisco.
Mr. Rudy Baron, Pasadena
Mrs. Morgan Padelford, Pasadena
Mr.& Mrs. Pat Dundas, Banning
Mr. Bert Kronnick, San Marino
Dr. L.E. Reck, San Diego
Mr. Anthony O'Brien, San Francisco
Mr. J.A.Skogstrom,Fullerton
Mr. Warren Jones.
Newsletter has no record of ownership of two additional houses.

LEGAL HELP SECURED

Mr. Harry Cannon, attorney of Palm Desert has been engaged by a group of citizens who have a twofold purpose:

1. Help Mrs. Alice Muro secure redress for damage to her property.
2. Stop the irresponsible cutting of other people's property.

Several people are incensed at this attitude and are donating, even though their property has not been injured.
"We come to section 36 to escape from high speed highways and the crowds of the big city," says Mr. Remington." I came here for a needed rest and find more strife than I ever encountered any place"

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(Remington letter, continued)
Should you elect to proceed with the plan outlined to me, I shall assume no expense nor grant any easement through my property.
I am writing you in order that my views on this matter will be on record and sincerely hope my oppositions will not disrupt our cordial relations.
(Merrill L. Remington)(signed)

SHALL WE BLOCK OUR ROADS?

Old time residents of Cahuilla approach the idea of the Barrier and"no trespassing" sign with regret, for these things also mar the appearance of the desert.
Yet those in the line of the advancing bull-dozer are well advised to install posts embedded in cement across their lines, and place a "No Trespassing" sign on the padlocked chain.
Mr. John Francis, a guest of Mr. and Mrs. W. Donald Sams recently, is a bull dozer operator. He said "If we see a barrier or a no trespassing sign,we never go thru unless we get in touch with the boss and he takes the responsibility of breaking down the barrier!"
Thus people make the choice of relinquishing the valued beauty of the area and submitting to the destruction of the bulldozer,or of fencing off trespassers in an attempt to save their possessions.

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BULLDOZER DEFACES SPIEVAK PROPERTY.

Mr. and Mrs. Morris Spievak are victims of "Bulldozer fever" on two sides of their land.
On the north side, they have th ludicrous practical joke of having the bulldozer building two roads on their own property, the last without their knowledge or permission. The original road went through their property and had done so for many years. They made no move to avoid this public road.
About three weeks ago, a second road was bulldozed on their property a few feet north of the original road in order to satisfy the strange insistence of putting the roads "on the line."
Mr. and Mrs. Spievak have attempted to retain the desert flavor of their land. Morris says,"I have a home in the city. I built this for a desert retreat. I want to retain the vegetation,the rocks and the beauty."
Mr. and Mrs. Spievak will contribute to the fund for legal help in "Saving Our Desert."

Newsletter is your forum.
Use it.

CAT CANYON ROAD IS A HIGHWAY

"After a road has been in use for five years, it becomes a public highway. It cannot be blocked. A parallel road makes no difference." This is the interpretation of the law by Attorney Harry Cannon of Palm Desert.
Mr. Cannon, city Attorney of the town of Coachella, is aware of both land and water law federally, as well as in the state of California.
He has spent untold days and hours attending hearings on all matters pertaining to public utilities, particularly as they affect the Coachella Valley.
The County Board of Supervisors listens to Mr. Cannon's opinion with a great deal of respect,for they are aware that he is an expert on road matters.

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TRAFFIC HAZARD CREATED

"I was amazed at the deliberate traffic hazard created by the new road cutting across Cat Canyon Road," said Mr. Merrill Remington. "Cars travelling at any speed could crash at that corner and have a serious and completely unnecessary accident."

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MONEY FOR HELP SENT.

Checks are being sent to Newsletter to help with legal expenses in stopping the cutting of the desert in Cahuilla.
This will be placed in a separate "Legal Fund."
Cahuillans know that their money will be carefully spent,as needed and every penny will be accounted for through these pages. All expenses are assumed by Newsletter as a contribution to the many friends living away from the area who state that they have no other means of knowing about the conditions.
Newsletter tries to report only the essentials, the complete and uncolored truth, and to help as much as possible.
Send in your opinions and ideas.
Send in suggestions for improving a drastic situation.

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The editor will forego a vacation to aid the neighbors.Call or write for assistance. E.S.